

Resource Number: 5BL 7996
Temporary Resource Number: 157508405010

COLORADO CULTURAL RESOURCE SURVEY
Cultural Resource Re-evaluation Form

OAHP1405
Rev. 9/98

1. Resource Number: 5BL 7996 2. Temp. Resource Number: 157508405010

2A. Address: 909 La Farge Avenue, Louisville, CO 80027
Previous address prior to 1939: 406 La Farge. Louisville addresses were changed in 1939.
LaFarge is sometimes spelled La Farge.

3. Attachments
(check as many as apply)
☒ Photographs
☒ Site sketch map
☒ U.S.G.S. map photocopy
☐ Other _____
☐ Other _____

4. Official determination
(OAHP USE ONLY)
☐ Determined Eligible
☐ Determined Not Eligible
☐ Need Data
☐ Nominated
☐ Listed
☐ Contributing to N.R. District
☐ Not Contributing to N.R. Dist

5. Resource Name:
Historic Name: Buffo House, Zado house.
Current Name: Thomas House

6. Purpose of this current site visit
(check as many as apply)
☐ Site is within a current project area
☒ Resurvey
☒ Update of previous site form(s)
☐ Surface collection
☐ Testing to determine eligibility
☐ Excavation
☐ Other _____



Describe This property is within the Jefferson Place Subdivision in Louisville, which is being evaluated for historic district potential in 2010 – 2012. This resurvey is part of the historic district evaluation process.

7. Previous Recordings: Architectural Inventory Form 2000, as part of “Old Town” Louisville Historical Building Survey by Carl McWilliams of Cultural Resource Historians.

8. Changes or Additions to Previous Descriptions: The exterior siding appears to be masonite rather than vinyl, and its color in 2012 is blue. The 8-light window on the front façade has been changed to a single-light fixed “picture” window, and exterior trim has been replaced. There is a small gabled hood with a shallow arched wood fascia over the front entrance, supported on 2x4 brackets. The front entrance steps have been changed from concrete to wood. Garage siding is now blue.

Construction History: The original ca. 1892 house may have been enlarged around 1910. It had an open front porch that was enclosed after 1948. An addition to the southwest corner was built around 1948. The garage was built in 1985. An addition to the west side was constructed in 2006. It seems likely that the siding, trim, windows and front canopy modifications were built at the same time, since they have been modified after 2000. The original siding was wood, which may have been changed to vinyl at some point, and more recently to masonite. A shed-roofed addition to the west elevation was noted as being fairly recent in 2000, but it has been removed or encased within the 2006 west addition.

Landscape or special setting description: Jefferson Place Subdivision is a historic residential neighborhood adjacent to downtown Louisville. The subdivision is laid out on a standard urban grid of narrow, deep lots with rear alleys. Houses are built to a fairly consistent setback line along the streets with small front lawns, deep rear yards and mature landscaping. Small, carefully maintained single-family residences predominate. Most of the houses are wood framed, one or one and one-half stories in height, featuring white or light-colored horizontal wood or steel siding, gabled or hipped asphalt shingled roofs and front porches. While many of the houses have been modified over the years, most of the historic character-defining features have been preserved.

909 La Farge is consistent with these patterns and blends well with the scale and character of the neighborhood. This deep, narrow, mid-block lot is typical of many in Jefferson Place. The house is set close to the front sidewalk, with a small, open front yard. The rear yard is enclosed by a 6-foot wood privacy fence and not visible. The garage is at the rear of the lot, opening to the alley.

9. Changes in Condition: None.
10. Changes to Location or Size Information: None.
11. Changes in Ownership: Same ownership as 2000 inventory form.
12. Other Changes, Additions, or Observations:

Further research has yielded new information about the history of 909 La Farge.

This house is one of several in Jefferson Place with which the Buffo family was associated, in addition to 709 Walnut (5BL11324), 711 Walnut (5BL11325), 913 La Farge (5BL11285), 920 La Farge (5BL7999), 936 La Farge (5BL8002), and 937 La Farge (5BL11286). It was also owned by the Zado family for fifty-five years. Members of the Zado family also owned or resided in other houses in the 900 block of La Farge, including next door at 901 La Farge (5BL7995).

Charles C. Welch, the developer of Jefferson Place, sold this property to Antonio Lessolo (also given in historical records as Lissolo and Lissola) by 1893. He was a miner, was likely from Italy based on his name, and he was listed in the 1892 Louisville directory. In the 1904 directory, "A." Lissola and his wife, Maggie, were listed as living on La Farge between Walnut and Caledonia. Caledonia was then, and is now, three blocks north of Walnut, so this was likely a reference to this location. Bert Lissola, who may have been a brother, was also listed as living on La Farge between Walnut and Caledonia.

The 2000 survey completed on this property showed evidence that the house was likely originally constructed in circa 1890, despite the fact that Boulder County listed its year of construction as 1900. The house is shown on the 1893, 1900, and 1908 Sanborn maps, and on the 1909 Drumm's Wall Map.

Online County records indicate that 909 La Farge was purchased by Dominic Buffo in 1926. Dominic (1900-1976), a coal miner, had grown up at 936 La Farge as the son of Michael and Maria Buffo, and his sister owned and resided at 937 La Farge. Dominic married Lillian Mae Majors (1902-1990) in 1921. Their son, William Buffo, was born in the house at 909 La Farge in 1931, and they also had three other children.

Louisville directories show that the Buffos lived at 909 La Farge from at least 1930 to 1936. The address at the time, under Louisville's old address system, was 406 La Farge. Dominic Buffo also owned 913 La Farge, next door, from 1934 to 1943. He would come to be primarily associated with 709 Walnut in Jefferson Place, where he and Lillian Buffo made their home for many years.

The Zado family of Louisville owned this house for fifty-five years, from 1944 to 1999. They are listed as living at this location in Louisville directories beginning in 1946.

Joseph Zado (1910-1993) and Mary Kuretech (1913-1992) were married in 1936 in New Mexico and came to Louisville in 1940. They had children Helen (Schmitt) and Mildred (Benshoof). Joseph Zado worked as a coal miner and was known to be an excellent craftsman. Census records show that the Zado family was Slovenian but from Italy. It is believed that Joseph's parents, also named Joseph and Mary Zado, lived in Louisville as well. The Kuretech family was originally from Razdrto, Slovenia. Mary's brothers, Frank, Victor, and Phillip Kuretech, also came and settled in the Louisville area.

Sources of Information

Boulder County "Real Estate Appraisal Card – Urban Master," on file at the Carnegie Branch Library for Local History in Boulder, Colorado.

Boulder County Clerk & Recorder's Office and Assessor's Office public records, accessed through <http://recorder.bouldercounty.org>.

Directories of Louisville residents and businesses on file at the Louisville Historical Museum.

Census records and other records accessed through www.ancestry.com.

Drumm's Wall Map of Louisville, Colorado, 1909.

Louisville, Colorado cemetery records, accessed at <http://files.usgwarchives.org/co/boulder/cemeteries/louisville.txt>

Buffo, Ron. "My Dad, Bill Buffo." The Louisville Historian. Louisville Historical Museum and Commission, Louisville, Colorado, Spring 2011.

Archival materials on file at the Louisville Historical Museum.

13. National Register Eligibility Assessment:

Eligible _____ Not eligible X Need data _____

Explain: The property lacks sufficient integrity and significance to be individually eligible to the National Register. The property has integrity of location, workmanship and association. It lacks integrity of design due to the prominent modifications to the front façade as well as numerous additions; these also impact integrity of feeling. It lacks integrity of materials due to replacement siding. Integrity of setting is compromised by the rear additions, which have changed the size and shape of the back yard.

13A. Colorado State Register: Eligible _____ Not Eligible X

13B. Louisville Local Landmark: Eligible X Not Eligible _____

The property is significant for its long association with Louisville's immigrant Slovenian and Italian coal mining families, the Buffo and Zado families.

13C. Historic District Potential: Jefferson Place is eligible as a State Register and local historic district. There is potential for a National Register historic district. This property is non-contributing.

Discuss: This building is being recorded as part of a 2010-2011 intensive-level historical and architectural survey of Jefferson Place, Louisville's first residential subdivision, platted in 1880. The purpose of the survey is to determine if there is potential for National Register, State Register or local historic districts. Jefferson Place is eligible as a State Register historic district under Criterion A, Ethnic Heritage, European, for its association with European immigrants who first lived here and whose descendants continued to live here for over fifty years. The period of significance for the State Register historic district is 1881 – 1980. Jefferson Place is potentially eligible as a National Register historic district under Criterion A, Ethnic Heritage, European. However it needs data to determine dates of some modifications, and to more definitely establish the significant impacts of various European ethnic groups on the local culture of Louisville. The period of significance of a National Register district is 1881 – 1963. Jefferson Place is eligible as a local Louisville historic district under local Criterion B, Social, as it exemplifies the cultural and social heritage of the community.

European immigrant families flocked to Colorado coal mining communities, including Louisville, in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries in search of economic opportunities they could not find in their own countries. Louisville's Welch Coal Mine, along with other mines in the area, recruited skilled workers from western Europe. In the early years before 1900, most of the miners who lived in Jefferson Place came from English-speaking countries.

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Immigrants from England brought a strong tradition and expertise in coal mining. The English are widely credited with developing the techniques of coal mining that were used locally, and they taught these techniques to other miners. The British mining culture was instilled in the early Colorado coal mines. English immigrants also brought expertise in other necessary skills such as blacksmithing and chain forging.

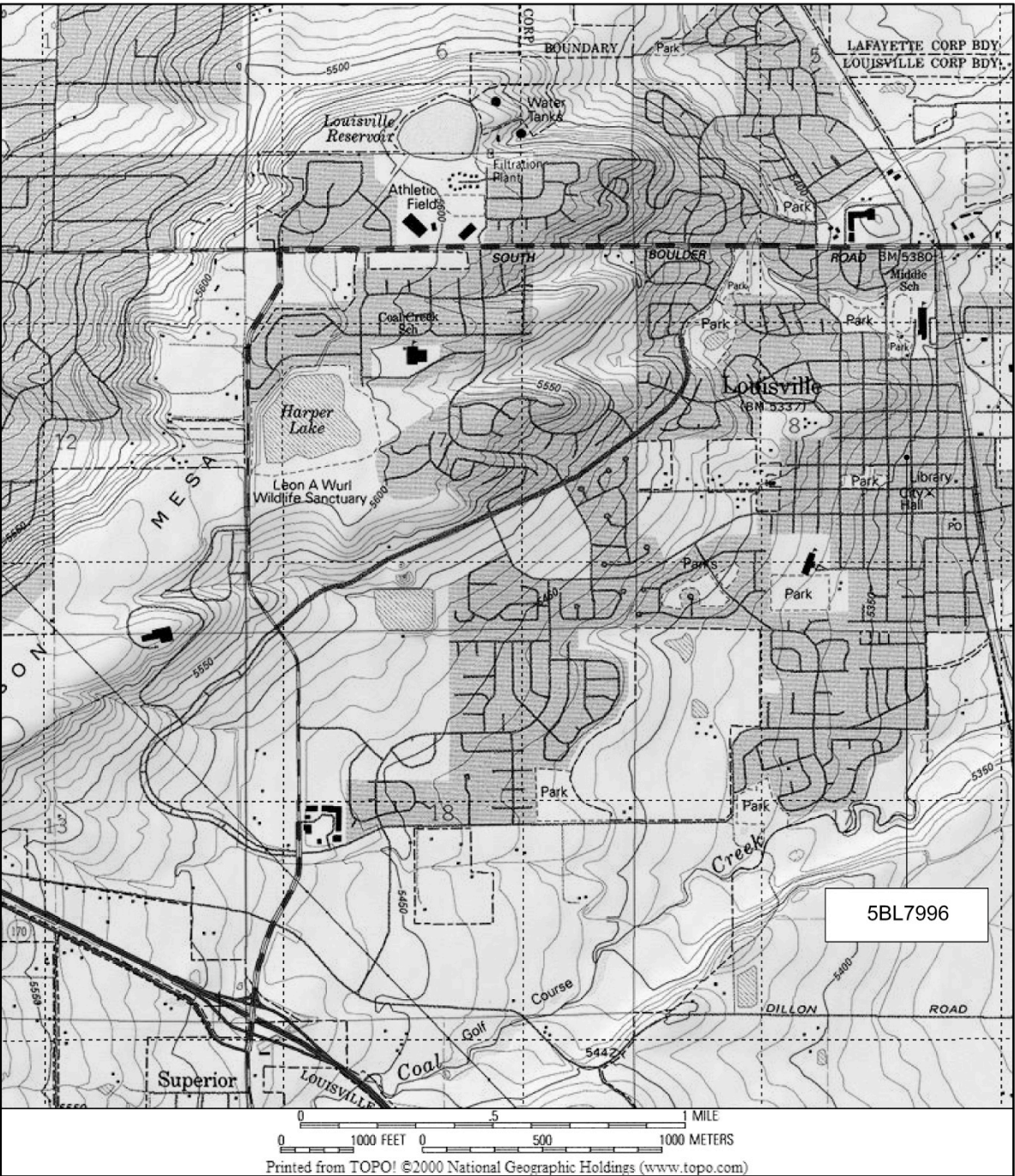
Later Jefferson Place residents arrived from Italy, France, Austria, Germany, Hungary, Slovakia, and Slovenia, among other places. The Italians eventually became the largest single ethnic group in Jefferson Place and in Louisville as a whole. About one-third of the houses in Jefferson Place were owned and occupied by Italian immigrants. Italian immigrants left their mark on Louisville in the food and beverage industries. To the present day, downtown Louisville is known throughout the Front Range for its tradition of Italian restaurants. The impacts of the heritage and customs of the other European ethnic groups could be significant, but are not well documented and need further investigation.

14. Management Recommendations: Nomination as a Louisville Local Landmark is recommended.
15. Photograph Types and Numbers: 5BL7996_909LaFarge_01 through 5BL7996_909LaFarge_05.
16. Artifact and Field Documentation Storage Location: Electronic files of forms with embedded photos and maps at Colorado Historical Society. Electronic files of forms, and electronic files of photographs at City of Louisville, Colorado, Planning Department.
17. Report Title: Historical and Architectural Survey of Jefferson Place Subdivision, Louisville, Colorado
18. Recorder(s): Kathy and Leonard Lingo, and Bridget Bacon, City of Louisville
19. Date(s): 2013
20. Recorder Affiliation: Avenue L Architects, 3457 Ringsby Court Suite 317, Denver CO 80216 (303) 290-9930

Colorado Historical Society, Office of Archaeology & Historic Preservation
1200 Broadway, Denver, CO 80203
303-866-3395

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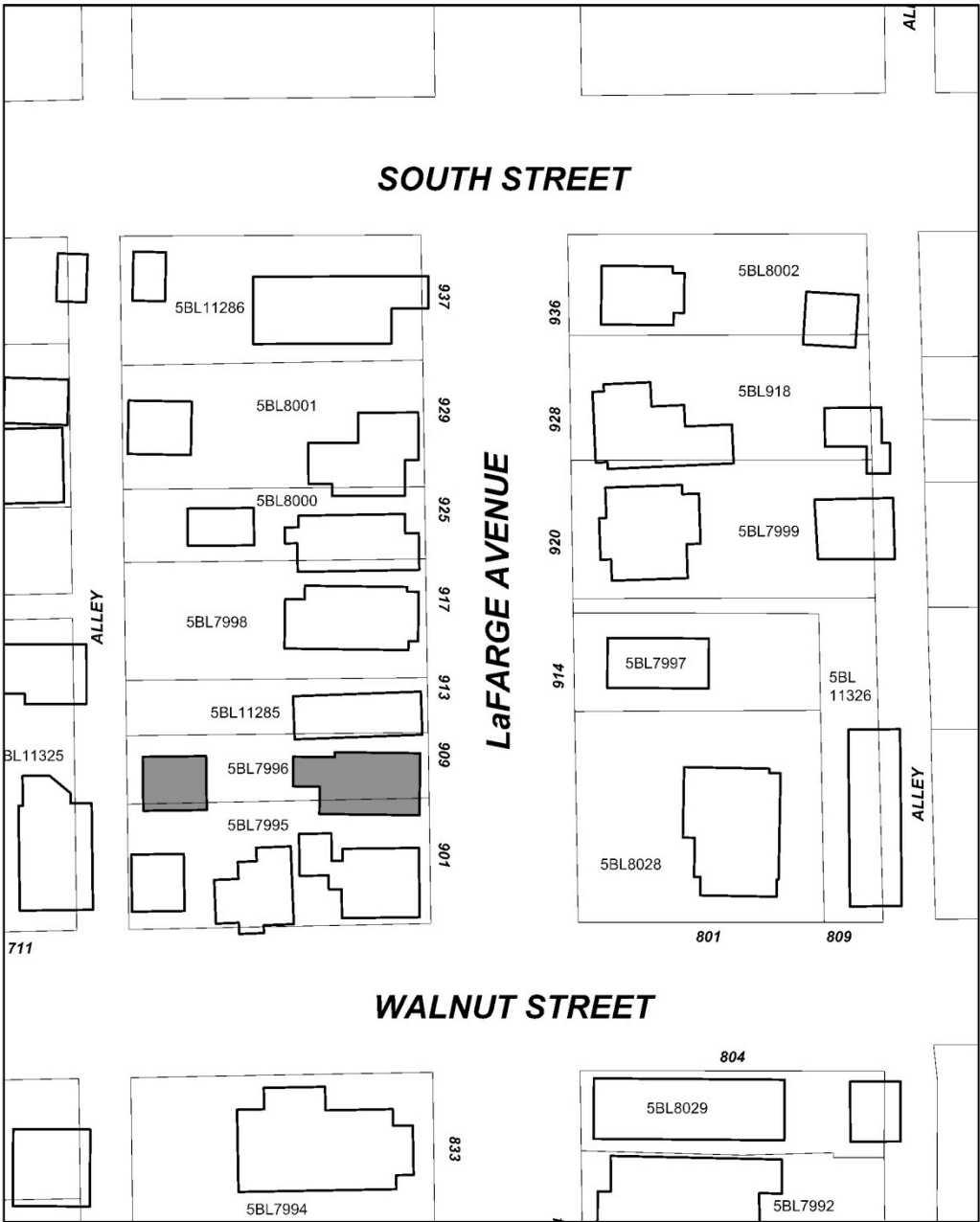
Architectural Inventory Form
USGS Location Map



909 LaFarge Avenue, Louisville, Colorado

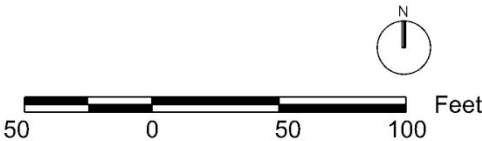
SOURCE: Extract of Louisville, Colorado
USGS map, 1994.





909 LaFarge Avenue, Louisville, Colorado

SOURCE: City of Louisville, Colorado
GIS Files.



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5BL7996_909LaFarge_01 east



5BL7996_909LaFarge_02 southeast

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5BL7996_909LaFarge_03 northeast



5BL7996_909LaFarge_04 garage south

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5BL7996_909LaFarge_05 garage west



909 La Farge. Boulder County Real Estate Appraisal card, 1948.